

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 11243 052115Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 /072 W
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R 022056Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5034

UNCLAS BOGOTA 11243

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CO
SUBJ: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION PASSES

1. THE BILL AUTHORIZING THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSED ITS FINAL LEGISLATIVE HURDLE IN A TUMULTUOUS SESSION OF THE CHAMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES WHICH LASTED UNTIL 2:00 A.M. ON DECEMBER 1. THE PACKAGE ALSO PROVIDED FOR SEPARATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 26 AND JUNE 4, RESPECTIVELY. THE MEASURE WAS PASSED WITH THE SUPPORT OF FOLLOWERS OF LIBERAL PRE-CANDIDATE TURBAY AND OF CONSERVATIVE ALVARO GOMEZ. SUPPORTERS OF CARLOS LLERAS AND MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVE PASTRANA-OSPINA FACTION WALKED OUT OF THE CHAMBER PRIOR TO THE VOTE. SPOKESMEN FOR THESE LATTER TWO GROUPS ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO CHALLENGE THE LEGISLATION IN THE COURTS, FOR PROCEDURAL ERRORS.
 2. THE LEGISLATION PROVIDES FOR THE ELECTION OF FIFTY DELEGATES TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AT THE TIME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, JUNE 4. THE ASSEMBLY WILL CONVENE ON JULY 15, 1978 FOR ONE YEAR AND IS EMPOWERED TO ENACT A REFORM OF THE JUDICIARY AND OF DEPARTMENTAL AND MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.
 3. PRESIDENT LOPEZ, WHO HAD MADE THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY UNCLASSIFIED
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- A MAJOR FEATURE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, TOLD A NATIONAL TELEVISION AUDIENCE DECEMBER 1 THAT THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A PANACEA TO CURE ALL NATIONAL ILLS, AND THAT HE WOULD BE SATISFIED IF IT SOLVED THIRTY PERCENT OF THE JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS.
4. COMMENT: THE LEGAL CHALLENGES TO THIS BILL ARE NOT LIKELY

TO BE SUCCESSFUL. THE SEPARATION OF ELECTIONS ARTICLE IS
BASIS TO THE LIBERAL PARTY'S SAN CARLOS AGREEMENT, WHICH
SHOULD ALLOW THAT PARTY TO ENTER THE 1978 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
UNITED BEHIND ONE CANDIDATE. A JUDICIAL DECISION TO INVALIDATE
THAT ARTICLE WOULD CAUSE CONSIDERABLE CHAOS IN THE POLITICAL
SCENE.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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